

REMARKS

Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 25, and 26 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-20 and 22-26 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shkedy (U.S. Patent No. 6,260,024) in view of Chinnapan (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/011187[0]) and further in view of Riordan (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,891). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent Claims 1, 25, and 26 each recite determining "determining whether the aggregated orders represent a volume of orders that exceeds a threshold volume needed to conduct an auction." None of the aforementioned references discloses this limitation and Claims 1, 25, and 26 are believed to be allowable accordingly.

Claims 2-20 and 23-24 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

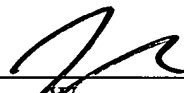
The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

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